

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 26, 2017
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS
HDP-2017- 0286
1210 ROSEWOOD AVENUE

PROPOSAL

Relocate a house of undetermined age, but believed to be ca. 1920, to Lockhart, Texas.

ARCHITECTURE

One-story, rectangular-plan, front-gabled frame house with a partial-width, front-gabled partially-inset independent porch on ornamental metal supports; single and paired 1:1 fenestration; several one-story masonry additions to the rear of the house.

RESEARCH

There are no extant building or utility permits to indicate the precise date of construction of this house, and a house of similar scale, although with a different design for the projecting bay on the west side of the house and a porch or some other feature on the projecting front bay of the house appears on the 1922 Sanborn map, research shows that the site began being used as the Old Negro Women's Home around 1913. It is not clear if this is the house that became the Old Negro Women's Home in 1913, or if this was constructed or modified later, but the style and features of this house seem to indicate a construction date of the early 1920s.

According to Jason McDonald's study, Racial Dynamics in Early Twentieth-Century Austin, Texas, the Old Negro Women's Home was originally located on E. 10th Street and opened on Rosewood Avenue in 1913, which is confirmed by listings in the city directories. The Old Negro Women's Home was operated by an African-American executive board, which included Reuben S. Lovinggood, president of Samuel Huston College, and William Tears, the prominent African-American undertaker, and was funded by contributions from African-American fraternal societies and churches. The King's Daughters, an African-American women's organization, took on the responsibilities for operation of the home, which was in existence at this location until around 1970, with a period in the mid-1940s, when it served as the Colored Branch of the Young Women's Christian Association. The building was then used as a halfway house, and finally by the Travis County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation until recently.

STAFF COMMENTS

This house meets the criteria for designation as a historic landmark, and/or as a contributing structure to a potential local historic district. It retains a high degree of integrity in the original portion of the house, and has rear additions which do not compromise the context or architecture of the house. The East Austin Historic Survey (2016) determined that this house is eligible for individual designation as a city historic landmark and individual designation in the National Register of Historic Places.

The house meets the criteria for landmark designation as set forth in City Code:

- a. **Architecture.** The house is an early vernacular bungalow.
- b. **Historical association.** The house has long-standing associations with the African-American community in East Austin, having served as an old folks' home for African-American women, and as the Colored Branch of the Young Women's Christian Association from around 1914 to around 1970.

- c. **Archaeology.** The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
- d. **Community value.** The house possesses a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of East Austin and the city's African-American community.
- e. **Landscape feature.** The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Initiate historic zoning. This building represents an important piece in Austin's African-American history.

LOCATION MAP



-  SUBJECT TRACT
-  PENDING CASE
-  ZONING BOUNDARY

NOTIFICATIONS

CASE#: HDP-2017-0286
1210 ROSEWOOD AVENUE



1" = 250'

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.

1210 Rosewood Avenue
Construction date unverified, but believed to be ca. 1920



OCCUPANCY HISTORY 1210 Rosewood Avenue

City Directory Research, Austin History Center
By City Historic Preservation Office
June, 2017

1992	Gateway House Travis County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
1985-86	Gateway House Travis County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation
1981	Travis County Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Special Services Center
1977	Gateway House Halfway house
1973	Vacant
1968	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Idella Larrimore, director
1965	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Idella Larrimore, director
1961	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Idella Larrimore, director
1957	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Idella Larrimore, manager
1954	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Idella Larrimore, manager
1952	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Annie S. Hunter, supervisor NOTE: Idella Larrimore is listed as a cook for the King's Daughters Home for the Aged. She lived at 1901 E. 10 th Street.
1949	King's Daughters Home for the Aged Annie S. Hunter, supervisor
1947	YWCA Colored Branch
1944-45	YWCA Colored Branch

- Thelma Bryant, secretary
- 1941 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
NOTE: Malinda Jones lived on-site.
- 1939 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
- 1937 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
- 1935 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
- 1932-33 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
- 1930-31 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
NOTE: The house is listed as 1204 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1929 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1927 Old Negro Women's Home
Lillie Anderson, matron
NOTE: Malinda Jones is listed as a cook for Tom Smith who operated a restaurant at 912 E. 10th Street. Malinda Jones is listed as a resident at that address.
NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1924 Old Negro Women's Home
Malinda Jones, matron
NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1922 Old Negro Women's Home
Elizabeth Glasgow, matron
NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1920 Old Negro Women's Home
Lula Banton, matron
NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1918 Old Negro Women's Home
Katie Toliver, matron
NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.
- 1916 Old Negro Women's Home
Rachel Washington, matron

NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.

1914 James T. Johnson
 Abstractor and deputy county sheriff.
 NOTE: There is no listing for an Old Negro Women's Home.
 NOTE: The house is listed as 1304 Rosewood Avenue.

NOTE: The listings for this address (1304 Rosewood Avenue) go back to the 1890s in the city directories, but this is clearly not an 1890s house. James T. Johnson lived at this address in the early 1910s before it became the Old Negro Women's Home; a house on this site was the home of D. Hill Hart, the clerk for the U.S. Circuit and District Courts for the Western District of Texas from the 1890s until around 1910.

"Numerous black organizations catered to the health and social needs of African-American ghetto dwellers. One charitable institution operated by African Americans was the Old Negro Women's Home, originally located on E. 10th Street but later moved to Rosewood Avenue, in the heart of the East Austin black neighborhood. When it opened in February, 1913, the building housed six elderly black women, some of whom had previously been living in "tumble-down old shanties without conveniences of any kind." Although the home operated under the auspices of the United Charities, its executive board was composed entirely of African Americans; the chairman was Reuben S. Lovinggood, president of Samuel Huston College, and the secretary was William Tears, who ran a successful undertakers business. The home was funded by contributions from black fraternal societies and churches. An African-American women's organization, the King's Daughters, oversaw the daily operation of the home and eventually took on responsibility for raising the funds to keep it open, which they managed to do even during the Great Depression."

From Jason McDonald, Racial Dynamics in Early Twentieth-Century Austin Texas (Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2012).

The 1920 U.S. Census shows Lula Banton, a 54-year old African-American widow at this address. She is listed as the head of household and the matron of an old women's home. Also at this address, all of whom are listed as inmate boarders, are Margarita Mack, an 82-year old widow, Ella Gardner, a 92-year old widow, Eliza Williams, an 82-year old widow; Julia Rabb, a 76-year old widow; and Martha Hancock, a 96-year old widow. None of the women had an occupation listed, and all list the United States as their place of birth.

The 1930 U.S. Census shows Malinda Jones as the matron at this address. There were 4 "lodgers," Ella Henderson, a 78-year old widow; Ella Scoot, a 55-year old widow, who worked as a seamstress for a private family; Nancy Johnson, a 70-year old widow; and Dicey Levit, who had been born in Florida; her age is indecipherable.

The 1940 U.S. Census shows Malinda Jones as a lodger at an unknown location, but which was a large African-American boarding house. She was a 77-year old widow. There were 19 other people, male and female, living at this address, most of whom had jobs, including yardman, maid, cook, and servant. Malinda Jones is listed as a matron for a State Department.

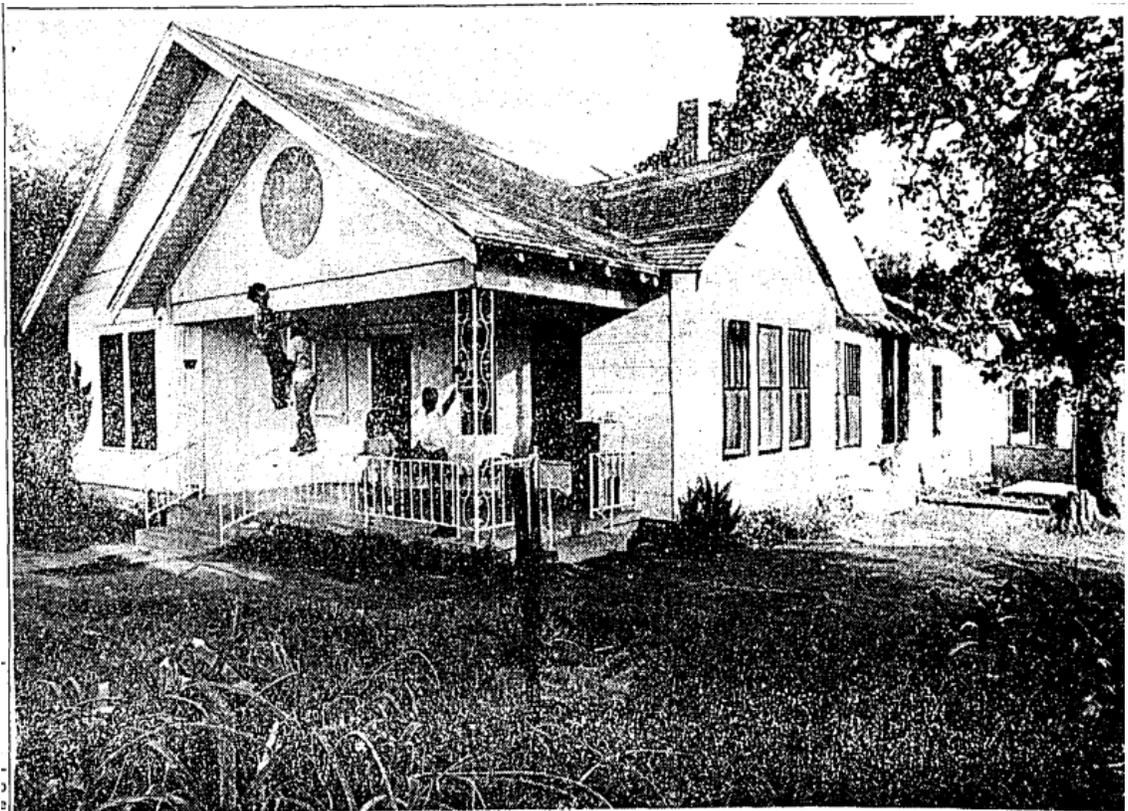
King's Daughters Old Negro Women's Home / Home for the Aged (ca. 1913-1970)

The home, originally located at 907 E 10th in 1913 and relocated to 1210 Rosewood by at least 1922, served as a retirement facility for elderly women until 1973. Both independent

residents and women from the Texas State Hospital were residents there. The current structure also served as Negro Youth Association and YWCA headquarters as it expanded throughout the 20th century. By mid-century, the residential nursing facility had changed its name to the King's Daughters Home for the Aged.

In 1970, the building was transferred to Travis County as a possible emergency home for neglected children. It served as a daycare temporarily ("School for Children"). 1210 Rosewood was the proposed site of an alternative school for children affected by the closures of Anderson and Kealing High Schools, a proposal which gained traction after a boycott by students in 1971 in protest of forced busing.

By 1973, however, the home had been accepted by the Travis County MH & MR Special Services division and became "Gateway House," a transitional living facility for men and women recovering from alcoholism.



ALTERNATIVE — Black and chicano children play on the front porch of a day care center at 1210 Rosewood, the site of a possible "alternative" school for students planning to boycott Austin public schools over the closing of predominately

black Anderson High and Kealing Junior High this fall. Known as the "School for Children," the day care center is being considered for the alternative school site, but no formal arrangements have been announced. Story on Page 1 (Staff Photo)

Austinites Responding Nobly to Aid of Aged Negro Woman's Home Founded by the United Cha

The Austin Statesman (1902-1915); Mar 11, 1913;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman

pg. 8

***Austinites Responding Nobly to
Aid of Aged Negro Woman's Home
Founded by the United Charities***

Interest among the colored people of the city is fast awakening in the Austin Home for Aged Negro Women at 907 East Tenth Street, founded a month ago by the United Charities.

Practically every negro organization or club here has asked to be permitted to help in supporting the home. Many have already made substantial subscriptions, and as many more have promised to make regular monthly appropriations. The following have made contributions: Bonnell Lodge, \$10; Wesley Chapel, \$10; Capital City Lodge, \$10; Knights and Daughters of Tabor, \$10; King's Daughters, \$12, and others, \$40. The total amount is \$92.

The home was founded a month ago by the United Charities. Mrs. Nellie W. Holden, general secretary, is one of the leading spirits. Its purpose is to

furnish shelter, food, clothing and care for the old negro "mammies" of Austin who have outgrown their usefulness and are no longer able to support themselves. It has been planned to make the institution a factor among the colored citizens of Austin, to center their interest in it and to make them realize what good may be done through its use. In this the founders have been successful. Dally, farm products, butter, milk, eggs and green stuffs, are sent to the home by colored people in the city and on the farms near town. The King's Daughters have spent several afternoons with the old "mammies," making tablecloths, bed linen and the like for use in the home.

Nor has the interest been limited to the negroes. Some days ago a local sewing machine agent made the home a present of a sewing machine, and a number of Austin housewives have given dishes and other useful articles.

The monthly report just filed shows that there are now five inmates in the home, all of whom are satisfied. The expenses for the past month reached \$53.45. Out of this comes the matron's salary, which is \$20. The cost of equipment has been \$112.03, which includes chairs, tables, kitchen utensils and other necessities.

Story on the founding of the Home for Aged Negro Women
Austin Daily Statesman, March 11, 1913

NEGRO WOMEN'S HOME ACCOMPLISHING GOOD

INSTITUTION NOW CARING FOR SIX
OLD NEGRO "MAMMIES,"

Colored Organizations of Austin Are
Taking Interest In Work and
Helping Financially.

Although entering upon its third month of work, the Austin Home for Aged Negro Women, founded in February by the United Charities, has already become a popular factor in the negro community of the city. Many of the colored organizations have not only pledged it their support, but have made substantial contributions.

Six old "mammies," all of them "fo' de wah" negroes, are being cared for at the Home. They have come from different sections of the town, and when taken to the institution were barely leading an existence in dirty little hovels, where sanitation was the last and least thing thought of, and a living was pieced out by odd jobs and charity.

None of the women could be induced now to leave the Home. They appreciate what is being done for them. Most of their time is spent in sewing, making quilts and things to be used in the Home. Their most frequent requisition to Mrs. Nellie W. Holden, general secretary of the United Charities, is for thread.

The Home is a frame building located at 907 East Tenth Street. The exterior has been recently painted and made to look as attractive as possible. On the inside the walls have been re-papered, and there is evidence of much scrubbing and cleaning.

In all, there are five rooms with a storm hall at the entrance. One room is used as general sleeping quarters at night and as a sitting room in the daytime. This leads into a small hall connecting with the matron's room and a "spare room," the latter now being used for one of the old women who is ill. The kitchen and dining room occupy the other part of the home. Everything is kept spotless.

In the course of time the Home will be enlarged so as to accommodate more people. When this is decided upon it is likely that all of the colored organizations of Austin will render valuable assistance.

Austin Daily Statesman, March 31, 1913

This story references the address of the home as 907 E. 10th Street.

**OLD NEGRO WOMEN'S HOME
ASKS AID TO LIFT DEBT**

In Austin there is what is known as the "Old Negro Women's Home," and this home is in debt, it is stated, to the extent of about \$1500. There is a movement on foot at present to lift this debt and the effort is being made by the "Colored King's Daughters, assisted by the Ministers' Alliance," to quote the card that has been struck. A committee representing the Colored King's Daughters and Ministers' Alliance has just gone before the city council, asking that their effort be endorsed by that body. The committee stated they would rather have the endorsement of the council than pecuniary help from it, as the members could proceed with their work then, and the general citizenship would know they represented a cause that is worthy.

After investigating conditions, needs of the home and those who will have in charge the raising of the \$1500, the council endorsed the effort, Mayor Yett making this statement public today.

Austin Statesman, September 7, 1919

County's Gift-Land To Need Cash Aid
The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Dec 17, 1970;
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Austin American Statesman
 pg. A6

County's Gift-Land To Need Cash Aid

Travis County Judge J. H. Watson said finances will be the principal issue when county commissioners decide what to do with the Kings Daughters property offered the county by the Austin Civic Charity Group. The property, located at 1210 Rosewood St., was operated as a home for the elderly until June of 1970, according to Dr. Sidney White of the Travis County Child Welfare Board. Dr. White appeared before Commissioners Monday with Alvin Harvey of the State Department of Public Welfare to request that the property be used as an emergency receiving unit for dependent and neglected children. Dr. White estimated that the unit could be used to house 16 children at a cost of \$2,532 per month.

Watson said, "I don't know where the money is coming from. That's over \$30,000 per year."

Watson said White's figures were "an estimate, and that sometimes varies quite a bit."

"We already have Girls' Town USA. These children have been taken care of cheaper in foster homes, but I don't know how good that is."

White said the primary purpose of the emergency unit would be to house children on a temporary basis until foster homes could be found for them. He said the number of dependent children in the county was increasing 10 to 15 per cent per year, and often the welfare board was called on to take children in the middle of the night.

Dr. White said the children often had to be placed in Gardner House, the county

juvenile home, until foster homes could be found. "This is not the proper place for them," Dr. White said. "They are not delinquent."

Harvey told commissioners Monday that in time, dependent and neglected children in Travis County will become "an acute problem."

Austin Statesman, December 17, 1970

Unless the Plumbing is done in strict accordance with City Ordinances, do not turn on the water.

PERMIT FOR WATER SERVICE AUSTIN, TEXAS No. 4888 ⁵⁵ ₃₃
 E. 87.5' Lot 1, B1k.1, Fw. 87.5' Lot 2, B1k.1
 M. (73' Front) Address 1210 Rosewood Ave. See 33
 Plumber _____ Size of Tap $\frac{3}{4}$ " Date _____

Foreman's Report

Date of Connection	2-10-37	No. Fittings	1
Size of Tap Made	$\frac{3}{4}$ "	Curb-Cock	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Size Service Made	"	Elbow	
Size Main Tapped	6" C.I.	St. Elbow	
From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock	8.5'	Bushing	
From E-Prop. Line to Curb Cock	5'	Reducer	
Location of Meter	back of water line	1.5" Pipe	$\frac{3}{4}$ " copper
Type of Box	lock	Lead Comp.	
Depth of Main in St.	3'	Nipples	
Depth of Service Line	2'	Union	
From Curb Cock to Tap on Main	13.5'	Plug	
Checked by Engr. Dept.	(Signature) 2-13-37	Tee	
		Stop	
		Box	
		Lid	
		Valves	
		Req. No.	

Foreman's Signature: Brewster

INDEXED

Water service permit for this address (1937)

Home for Colored Women 1210 Rosewood Avenue

33 56 1 E.1/2 of 1 B

Frame building

23731 - 6/1/42

\$250.00

Day labor

1 floor drain

Building permit for a small frame building at this address by the Home for Colored Women (1942)

	Colored Branch Y, W.C.A.		1210 Rosewood Ave.	
33	56	1	F of 1	B

alterations and repairs to bldg.

25715 5-12-44 \$200.00

Geo. Grant

none

Building permit to the Colored Branch YWCA for alterations and repairs (1944)

	Heart's Ease Circle Kings		1210 Rosewood Ave.	
	Daughters			
33	(F) of 1	1	-	-

George L. Robertson

Breezeway and masonry addition to rear of building.

54612 8-1-53 \$6000.00

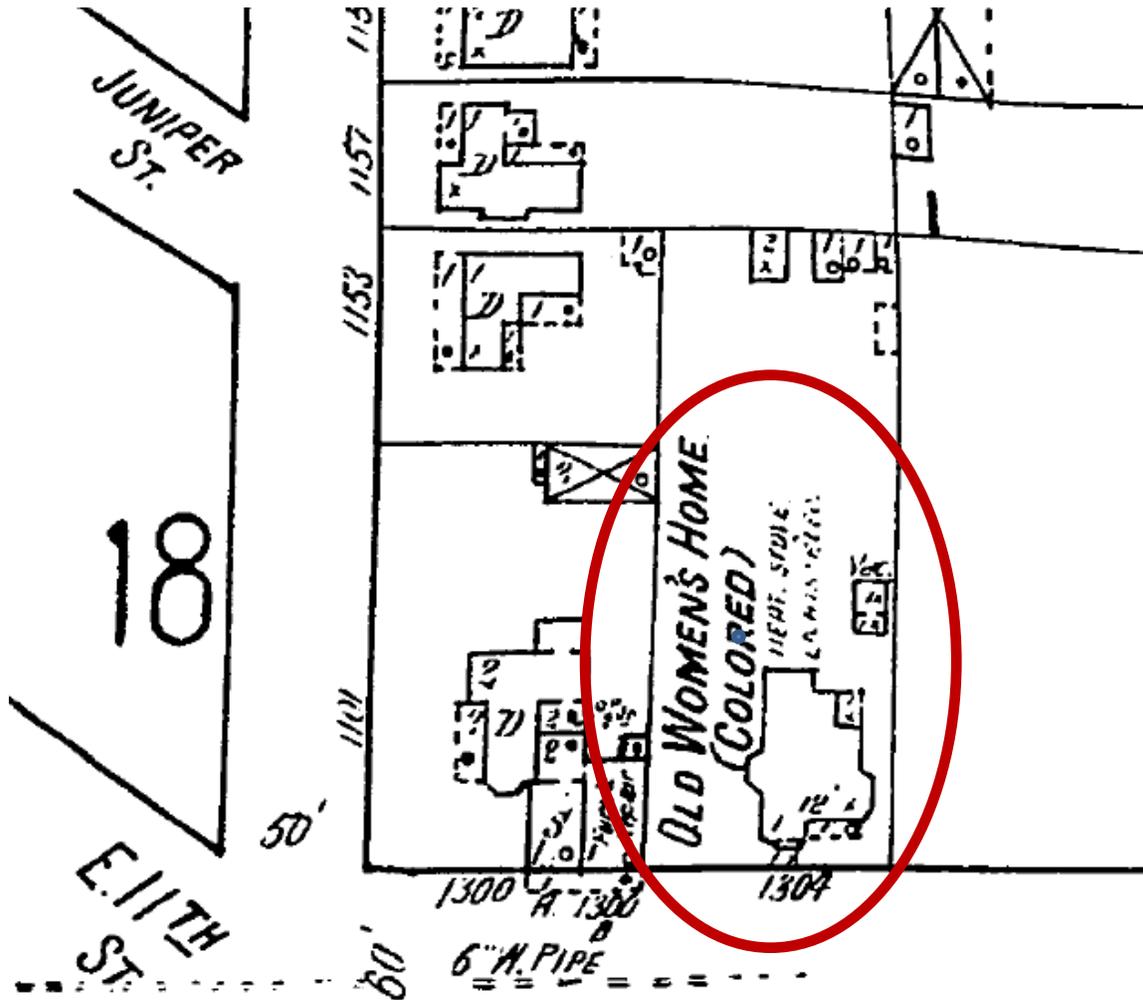
Oliver B. Street

5

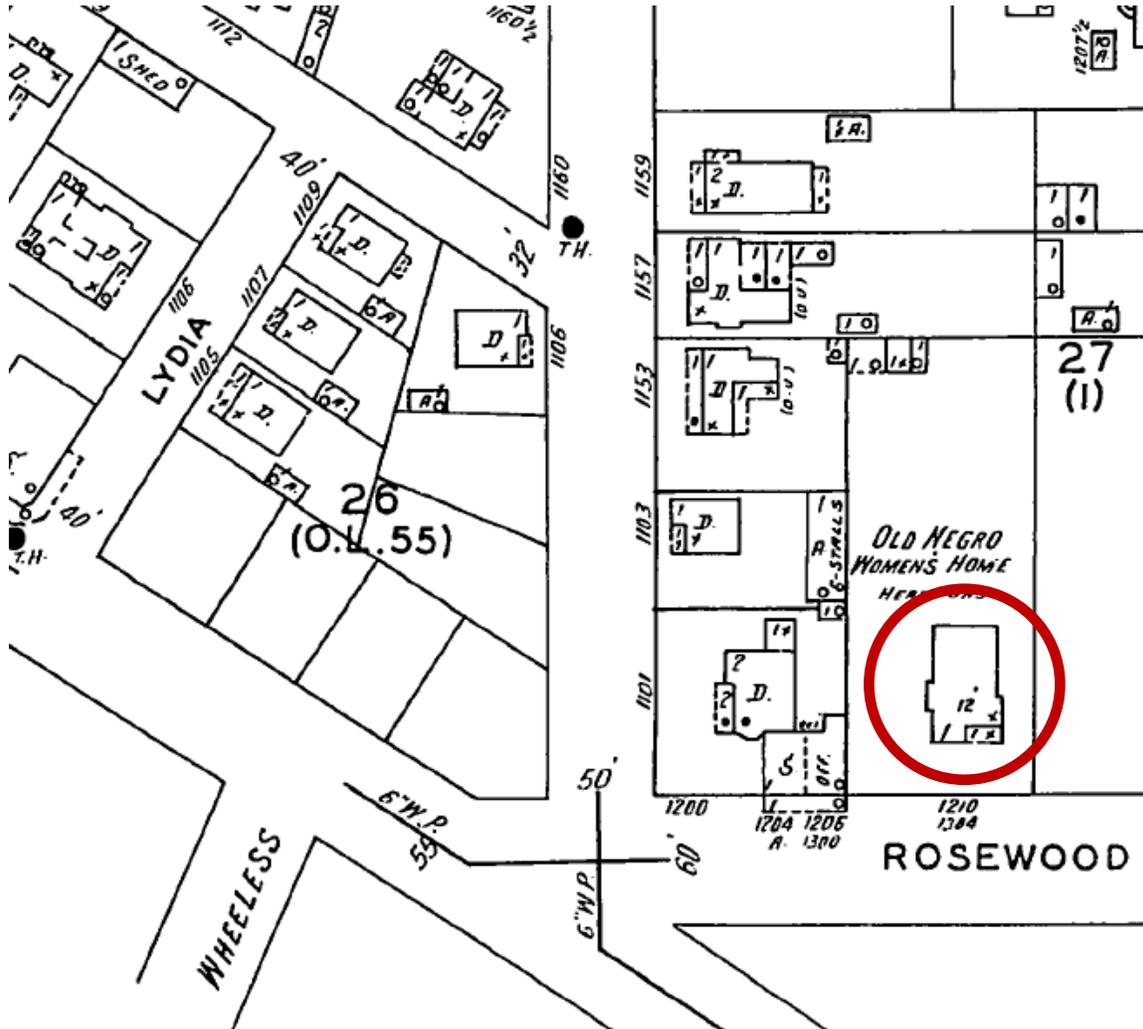
Building permit for a masonry addition to the rear of the building (1953)

OWNER Heart.Ease Circle of Kin ADDRESS 1210 Rosewood Ave
PLAT 33 LOT E. 87 5' lot 1 and W 87 Lot 2 BLK. 1
SUBDIVISION Robertson Sub
OCCUPANCY Boarding House
BLDG. PERMIT # 183050 DATE 6-19-79 OWNERS ESTIMATE 2,000.00
CONTRACTOR owenr NO. OF FIXTURES
WATER TAP REC# SEWER TAP REC#
Repair existing boarding house to min stds
max (90) days.

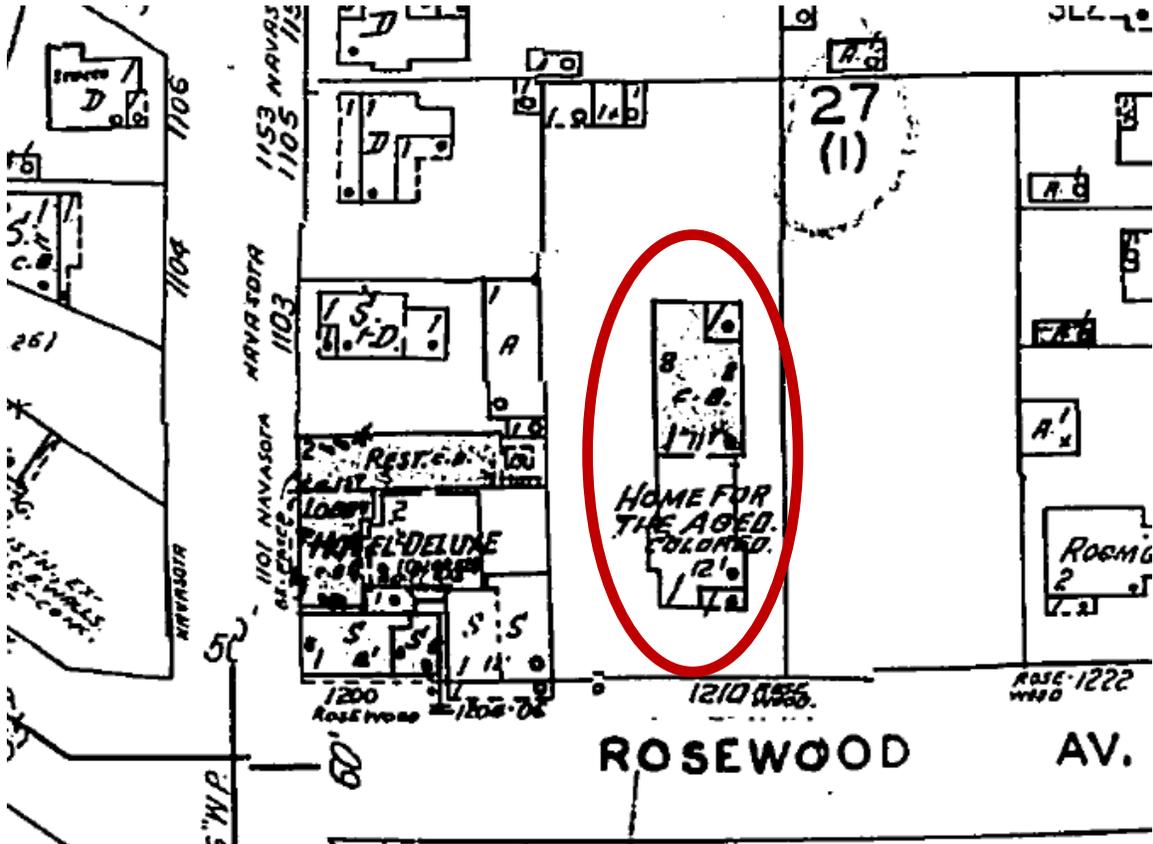
Building permit to repair the house (1979)



The 1922 Sanborn map shows a one-story house on this site and the older address of 1304 Rosewood Avenue, but with a porch or some other feature on the projecting bay on the front of the house that is no longer extant and a different shape to the projecting bay on the left (west) side of the house with a different shape than the existing bay. There is a question whether this map shows a former house on the site.



The house (without its current rear additions) appears on the 1935 Sanborn map as the Old Negro Women's Home.



The 1962 Sanborn map shows the same basic configuration as the 1935 map above, with the rear addition.